

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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General

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[REDACTED] Podlipki occupies an area of about four square km; and the population, industrial workers and their families, was about 12,000 in 1948. Most of these people lived in stone apartments under very crowded conditions, usually several persons to a room. Large families were rare; the birthrate apparently was not high, since most families had but one or two children. This may have been the result of economic pressure.

2. Some higher-salaried industrial and institute personnel lived in Moscow, which was 30 km away, and commuted to Podlipki daily on an electric suburban train. The last stop on this line was Monino, further to the east. There was no other public transportation available. There was a small airfield which was used only by a factory and was not for public use.

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Disease Incidence

3. I can give no information concerning actual health statistics in Podlipki or Pushkino. It was my impression that cancer of the stomach was a common cause of death in Podlipki. I did not hear of any cases of tuberculosis and think this disease did not present a serious problem. Although malaria was rare in Podlipki, the disease was endemic in nearby Pushkino. A small river flowed thru Pushkino and I believe it was a breeding-place for anopheles mosquitoes. The Soviets dusted the river every spring from low-flying airplanes. Patients suffering from malaria were given akrikhin tablets; in more severe cases, akrikhin injections were administered.
4. Other than a reported outbreak of diphtheria in 1947, I do not recall that any serious diseases were prevalent in Podlipki during my stay; I heard of no outbreaks of typhoid, typhus, smallpox, or dysentery. There was a threat of smallpox in early 1948 and all of the civilians were vaccinated against that disease.

Medical Facilities

5. A combined hospital-polyclinic, in a four-story, L-shaped building, was located in Podlipki. There were also a children's dispensary, an infectious-disease control station, and a pharmacy. A small accident station or dispensary was set up in a building next to Institute 88. A doctor and a nurse were in attendance there and furnished simple medical assistance during institute working hours.
6. The Podlipki polyclinic was staffed by specialists, which included an ophthalmologist, an internist, an ear-nose-throat specialist, a gynecologist, and a dentist. These specialists were available to the polyclinic outpatients and were also on duty in the hospital. There were several surgeons on the hospital staff and possibly several specialists in addition to those regularly in attendance at the polyclinic. The hospital had approximately 250 beds. It was always crowded and patients' beds were also placed in the halls.
7. The children's dispensary, in which a pediatrician was on duty, was situated in a very small office. This dispensary was merely an ambulatory station from which medical personnel visited the sick children as required, or to which the children reported if this was not prevented by the nature of the illness.
8. The infectious-disease control station was just a short distance from the polyclinic in a so-called "isolation barracks". This station was responsible for instituting immunizations in the event of outbreaks of contagious diseases.
9. It was the Germans' impression that the Soviet physicians at the Podlipki polyclinic were too specialized and were without knowledge in fields apart from their specialty. Even the dentists were trained in only one specific technique, e.g., pulling teeth, filling teeth, or insertion of false teeth.

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Medical Supplies

10. The polyclinic and pharmacy at Podlipki were handicapped by drug shortages. Prescriptions were required for sedatives and hypnotics and for pyramidon. Iodine, charcoal tablets for constipation, and frost-bite salve were obtainable without prescription.

Public Health Administration

11. There was no evidence of active public health agencies for the control of infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis and venereal diseases (which I believe were quite prevalent because of the crowded living conditions). Control was instituted only when a specific case was reported to the infectious disease control station. The only form of propaganda for hygienic living employed was the use of brochures and placards which appeared in the polyclinic reception room. I recall that one such placard stated the necessity of washing underwear at least once every four weeks.
12. Maternity cases were cared for at the polyclinic. Child health was presumably the responsibility of the children's dispensary. To my knowledge, there was no social service for follow-up treatment of infectious diseases. It is difficult for me to recall any instance where the Soviet authorities ever gave any thought to the social welfare of the people in Podlipki.
13. There was no evidence that men, physically handicapped, received any assistance from the authorities. There seemed to be a woeful absence of facilities for plastic surgery of facial disfigurement and for manufacture of eye-prostheses or other prosthetic devices. On several occasions I observed what I believe were crippled war veterans who were begging and I assumed that the Soviet government was either unable or disinterested in their rehabilitation.
14. Although there was an organization within the institute set up to maintain safety precautions, it functioned only when an injury occurred. The individual workers had the right to complain about dangerous working conditions but, to my knowledge, never did so. I believe their reluctance to criticize was based on fear of retaliation against them by their superiors.

Food Inspection

15. There was some official control of food sanitation in Podlipki. Meats sold in the market place always bore an inspection stamp and an official was usually stationed there who made certain that the meat vendors handled their goods properly. Uninspected meat could be bought on the black market. There were no slaughterhouses in the city.
16. Bottled, pasteurized milk could only be purchased in Moscow. Milk was not available in the food stores in Podlipki but could be bought in the open market, where it was dispensed from open containers. This milk was unpasteurized and I do not believe that the cows from which it had been obtained had been tuberculin-inspected. However, it seemed to be of good quality. A heated

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milk, moloko toplennoye, which I think was obtained from cows with calves, was sold in the market place.

17. Other foods regularly sold in Podlipki were preserved herring in tomato sauce, eggs, and vegetables. Fresh fish, only infrequently for sale in the market place, was not inspected. Caviar was available in various grades and I believe it was properly inspected.
18. There was only one small restaurant and a small dance hall in Podlipki. These places served simple foods, such as sausages, and were filthy. I do not believe they were inspected by health authorities.

Water Supply

19. Podlipki had a public water supply system which I believe was connected with the Moscow system. This was adequate for the needs of the entire population, although a few houses in the surrounding regions obtained their water from wells rather than from the public source. Well water was used in Pushkino and in Mamontovka, about three kilometers from Pushkino, since there was no public water supply system.
20. The water in Podlipki was good and could be drunk without further treatment. Somewhat less water was available in summer than in winter but no shortage ever occurred. The institute did not require that its workers use special drinking water. It was necessary to boil the drinking water in Pushkino and Mamontovka before using it.

Disposal Facilities

21. An operating sanitary sewage system served all the people in the apartment houses in Podlipki. I do not know how the sewage was ultimately disposed of. I wish to add that it was my impression that the Soviets at the institute were exceedingly unhygienic about their use of the toilet system and befouled the general areas of the toilets. This was also true of public toilets in Moscow.
22. Outdoor latrines were employed in Pushkino, Mamontovka, and in the old sections of Podlipki where no sewage systems were in operation. Human excreta from these latrines were either buried or used as fertilizer for potatoes and other vegetables.
23. Podlipki had a storm sewer system for carrying off surface water after rains. I do not know how this system operated but there were never any stagnant pools of water in the city after heavy rains.
24. There was no regular garbage collection in Podlipki. Garbage was usually thrown outside behind the houses. This was the practice even in Moscow, where garbage, excreta, and other refuse were commonly seen on the snow in the backyards as well as in front of the houses. With other refuse, garbage was collected semi-annually in Podlipki, once in preparation for May Day and again for the October Revolution celebration. It was then either burned or buried.
25. No public system existed for the removal of street refuse. It was not uncommon to see the bodies of cats and dogs in the streets long after they had died or had been killed.
26. The dead were usually buried in a cemetery in Podlipki.

Pest Control

27. Public insect control was non-existent in Podlipki. It was the usual procedure in the local hospital to remove all body hair from patients upon arrival in an effort to prevent lice or other bugs from being brought into the hospital. Nevertheless, I observed an unbelievable number of bugs on the walls during a visit there.
28. There were but very limited means available to combat the countless bugs, flies, and lice in Podlipki and Pushkino. Petroleum oil and a DDT-like powder were used to overcome these pests, but without success. I saw many rats in Podlipki, even in the market place. They pharmacy had no rat poisons for sale.

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